



Hon. Robert T. Matsui

Member of Congress

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Robert T. Matsui
Serving California's 5th District

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MATSUI: HOUSE SUPPORTS PROGRAM TO HELP AT-RISK YOUTH IN SACRAMENTO

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Robert T. Matsui announced today the U.S. House of Representatives approved support for a new program designed to provide employment opportunities along with substance abuse and mental health counseling to at-risk youth in Sacramento. The program, called the Youth Development and Crime Prevention (YDCP) Initiative, aims to keep at-risk youth out of the criminal justice system and instead help them make positive life choices.

"I am pleased Congress is supporting this new program to help youths in Sacramento," Matsui said. "Once a youth is involved in the criminal justice system, it is extremely difficult for them to fully exit the system. YDCP would provide an excellent opportunity to reduce the number of at-risk youths from entering the criminal justice system by sponsoring programs geared to develop the skills needed to successfully transition to adulthood. Youths in Sacramento, and the community in general, would benefit greatly from the services provided by YDCP."

The YDCP Initiative would serve 125 youths who may have been in foster care, are at risk of involvement in the criminal justice system and have a history of substance abuse or mental health issues. YDCP would provide these youths with employment opportunities, mentoring, and peer support. The initiative will also focus on promoting civic involvement and responsibility by engaging youth in activities that will directly benefit the community.

The YDCP Initiative is sponsored by the Sacramento Employment and Training Agency, a part of the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency. The project is part of the Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriations bill, which the House of Representatives approved today. The bill must now be approved by the Senate, agreed to by both houses, and approved by the President.

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